

The Lancaster Gazette.

CITY OF LANCASTER.

Thursday Morning Aug. 23, 1834.

The Isthmus of Persepolis.

The Isthmus of Persepolis, called by the Tartar language the "Gate of God," is situated between the Black Sea and the Eritrean Sea, and is 10 versts long by 2 miles (25 versts make 2 miles). To the west extends the Gulf of Persia, and on the side of the Caucasus by Cap Sardar, and on the side of the Eritrean by a promontory of the same name as the former. Persepolis is the capital of the circle of the same name, which contains the cities of Perspoli, Simferopol, and Esfirian. On the east the country is divided by a great number of hills; and several streams, one of which is the Salgir, water it. The climate is generally insipidous. The town and fortress of Persepolis are situated in the Isthmus between the straits of Sievash, in the Sea of Azov, and a line of ramparts running from east to west. A trench of twenty-four feet depth, provided with a drawbridge, is carried with cut-stones on both sides, runs across the Isthmus opposite the town. The situation of the town is not a good one, and the houses are poor in appearance, being covered with thatch, and the streets narrow and dirty. The great article is salt, which whole caravans come to carry away in the summer. The inhabitants about 2,000 in number, at most, (some writers say not more than 1,500) are composed of Russians, Tartars, and Armenians.

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metres wide and 14 deep, and protected by a wall 20 metres high. All these works were flanked by towers, and defended by the fort of Oskape. The incursions were, however, carried by the Russians, and two days after the fortress surrendered. But it was not the bravery of the Russian troops which thus achieved the entrance into the Crimea, for they in reality succeeded partly by the treachery of the Tartars, and partly by the carelessness of the workmen who had been entrusted with the repairs of the defences. Munich was then able to devastate the Peninsula, he pleased. The next year there was another attempt at invasion on the part of the Russians, but without success, as the walls were then repaired, and the Khan commanded in person and beat off the assailants. In 1770 the Russians failed again, but in the year after, 90,000 men succeeded in seizing on the Isthmus, which the Russians have since held possession of.

John Leyard the American Traveller.

Thomas Jefferson, one of the most sagacious of our statesmen, and a philosopher as well as a statesman, was the discoverer of the Columbia River, in the same sphere in which the scientific world consideres

him the discoverer of the plains of Neapa. It is true that the plains was first seen by Doctor Galle, through a telescope in German observatory; but the young man of Paris had previously demonstrated its existence, and in view of the part of the heavens towards which he observed, should be directed to find it. This is a very fine planet by a purely natural process, is one of the most remarkable achievements in the history of science. By a process less won-ful, but still indicative of great sagacity, Mr. Jefferson inferred the existence of a large river emptying into the Pacific ocean, before the eyes of any traveler had rested on the Columbia.

It struck him that the snow-clad summits of the Rocky Mountains, which feed the sources of so mighty a river, as the Missouri, must likewise shed a great quantity of water from their western slopes, and that this would be probably gathering into one channel and forming a large river. The idea seemed so important that he was impatient to have his conjecture immediately tested. Mr. Jefferson was then residing in Paris, on his way to the Nile. Jefferson purchased him to change his destination and try a fresher field of discovery on the Western Continent. The proposal of Jefferson touched a chord in the ardent and adventurous breast of Leyard, that could not fail a respond. He quashed the traveler a passport to St. Petersburg, and the necessary supplies for obtaining permission of the Empress Catherine to cross the Northern part of her dominions through Siberia, to the Pacific.

He was then to cross from Kamtschatka, or at Behring's Straits to the Northwest coast of the American continent, and then pass down the coast till he reached the mouth of the great river, which Jefferson thought must empty into the Pacific in a point the same latitude with the mouth of the Missouri. He was then to ascend the newly discovered river to its source, cross the Missouri to the French settlement on the upper Mississippi. Leyard was captivated by the project of discovery thus marked out by Jefferson, immediately adopted it, proceeded to St. Petersburg, obtained the permission which his son of the Emperor, and set forth for the East. But he was overaken and arrested in Siberia, the permission he had received of the Empress was revoked, and he was conducted out of the country as a spy.

Returning to Paris, he resumed the plan of exploring the sources of the Nile, which he had been prevailed on by Jefferson to abandon, but he did not live to carry out his design. His early death deprived his country of an ardent, adventurous, and enterprising traveller, whose explorations, had his life been spared, would have resulted in valuable additions to the stock of geographical knowledge.

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